Loans disbursed under the Integrated rural development programme

†3254. SHRI H. HAUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the loans disbursed under the Integrated Rural Development Programme are far below the prescribe limit of Rupees 5000 and has thus failed to create any economic activities for the beneficiaries especially the farmers; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to improve the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) assistance is given to beneficiaries by way of subsidy and credit. There is no limit prescribed for credit. Subsidy provided to beneficiaries is 25 per cent to small farmers, 33 1|3 per cent for marginal farmers agricultural laboureres and rural artisans and 50 per cent to tribal beneficiaries. This is subject to the ceiling of Rs. 3000 in norml area, Rs. 4000 in DPAP areas and Rs. 5000 for tribal beneficiaries. For minor irrigation works. there is no monetary ceiling and only percentage are applicable.

It is not correct to state that IRDP has failed to create any economic activity for the beneficiaries, especially the farmers. Evaluation reports of the programme indicate that a majority of the beneficiaries have enjoyed incremental income out of the economic activities taken up under the Programme.

(b) In view of the raising of the poverty line from Rs. 3500 to Rs. 6400 for the VIIth Plan period, it is being emphasised that per family investment must be increased, so that incremental income of the beneficiaries is sufficient to assist them to cross the revised poverty line. A package of assistance to the families has also been suggested.

Production of Jute

@@3255. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep fall in jute production during the last three years; if so, what are the figures of production, year-wise during the above period;

(b) what are the reasons for the fall in jute production; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase the production of jute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The table below gives all-India production of jute (including mesta) from 1982-83 to 1985-86:

Year	Production (Lakh bales of 180 kgs.) each
1982-83	71·7
1983-84	77·2
1984-85	77·9
1985-86	127·3

It may be seen that there was no fall in jute produtcion during the last three years and in fact the output during 1985-86 was an all time record.

†Previously Unstarred Question 2320 transferred from the 27th November, 1986.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2733 transferred from the 2nd December, 1986.